

## Origins of Humanness Project List

Value = 100 Points

Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a topic to develop as a project that fits your interests, learning style, or relates to a career goal you may have. Make a display, posters, and models, demonstrate, and write a report. Below is a list of suggestions. You may choose from this list or get approval from your teacher to adapt them.

The project will be graded using the guidelines of the “Critique Sheet” you will be given. To receive a good grade, make sure your project is complete by covering all areas of the critique. All projects will be “presented” to the class to earn 20 of the 100 points. Projects not presented can earn no more than 80 points (or 80%, a C).

**Literature:** Read and report on a book of fiction, a biography or historic research. For example, People of the Lake, Lucy, Clan of the Cave Bear or other books by Jean Auel. There are many others. Biographies of Louis, Mary, or Richard Leakey. Darwin’s theories and life. Survey magazines such as National Geographic or Archaeology, and create a bibliography.  
Indian Givers.

**Science:** Primate research by Jane Goodahl, or Dian Fossey’s Gorillas in the Mist. Human Behavior by Desmond Morris in The Naked Ape or The Human Zoo. Research scientific dating techniques. Study the dating of tree rings. Research the arguments against evolution. Study Darwin’s theory and voyages.

**Geography or Exploration:** Kon Tiki or Ra or any Thor Heyerdahl book. Make maps of the locations of famous or local sites.  
Aku, Aku concerning Easter Island.

**Geology:** Explain the location, and formation of Berengia, the land bridge. Research the Ice Age, glacial terms, landforms, and climate change.

**Anatomy:** Make skeletal comparisons of skulls, jaws, etc. of human or animal species. Assemble an animal skeleton. Study the evolution of modern animal life.

**Linguistics:** Research the development of human language. Study animal communication; or Koko, the gorilla. Explain how sign language works.

**Art:** Research cave drawings at Lascaux, Alahambra, or locally.  
Replicate Native American-style art, jewelry, or pottery.  
Create a “Mammoth/Mastodon” target for a demo.

**Archaeology:** Replicate Stone Age artifacts of stone, wood, or bone.  
Compile a dictionary of archaeological terms.  
Study underwater archaeology, shipwrecks.  
Interview an archaeologist for information.  
Research the Effigy Mound Culture of Wisconsin.  
Demonstrate archaeology techniques.

**Religion:** Study ancient burial practices.  
Research prehistoric customs and magic.  
Study medicine wheels and prehistoric calendars.  
Read and report on famous myths and legends.

**History:** Study the pre-Columbian cultures of the Aztecs, Mayans, or Incans.  
Research the conquests of Cortez or Pizzaro.  
Consider the impact of “social Darwinism”.  
Investigate the educational controversy over teaching evolution in the schools, or the Scopes/”Monkey Trial”.  
Research famous frauds such as the Piltdown Man, Cardiffe Giant, Tasaday Stone Age Tribe, or Von Daniken’s theory of alien contact.  
Consider the clash of cultures and the impact of the arrival of Europeans in the New World.  
Study Native American contributions to our culture.

**Food or Hunting:** Research the peopling of the Americas.  
Research the mega fauna of the Ice Age.  
Study or demonstrate hunting techniques.  
Cook and serve a Paleolithic meal.  
Study the domestication of animals.

**Medicine:** Collect medicinal/herbal plants and describe.  
Study the health and diet of prehistoric peoples.

**Anthropology:** Research present day stone age tribes.  
Look at the peopling of the Pacific Islands and the mysterious figures on Easter Island.  
Study the Ice Man found in Austria. (Avoid this.)

**Architecture:** Prehistoric structures: Stonehenge, monoliths.  
Study village structure, housing.

**Local History:** Compile a scrapbook of pictures of local artifact collections.  
Discover and record local sites, survey. Research and develop a recorded history on Amery, county, or St. Croix region.

